

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and double patenting rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 11-33 are now pending in the application, with Claims 11, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21-23 and 25 being independent. Claims 13, 16, 18 and 24 have been amended and Claims 26-33 have been added herein.

Support for Claims 26, 28 and 32 can be found at least in Figs. 6A-6E wherein a single sensor 33 is disposed between automatic sheet feeder or paper cassette 32 and printing head 1. Support for Claims 29 and 31 can be found in the specification at least at page 19, lines 3-14, page 20, line 25 to page 21, line 9 and page 23, line 20 to page 27, line 6. Support for Claims 27, 30 and 33 can be found at least at page 26, line 24 to page 27, line 14 and described in Fig. 9. Of course, the claims are not intended to be limited in scope to these preferred embodiments.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 13, 16, 18 and 24 recite allowable subject matter. These claims were objected to for being dependent upon rejected base claims. However, these claims will not be rewritten in independent form at this time because their respective independent claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed below.

Claims 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19-23 and 25 were rejected under obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,702,274 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,223,858 (Yokoi et al.). This rejection is traversed.

As recognized by the Examiner, the claims of US '274 do not recite ink jet printing, as is recited in each of the pending claims. Further, the patented claims do not recite the more detailed feature of scanning the printhead in a scanning direction. The Examiner relies on Yokoi et al. for teaching a serial ink jet printing apparatus. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not suggested any motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the patented claims with the teachings of Yokoi et al. Serial-type printing apparatuses feed recording media intermittently, and thus can have a different medium feeding operation than other types of recording apparatus. Note Applicant's original specification at page 7, lines 1-13. Accordingly, without specific motivation, it cannot be said that it would have been obvious to modify the printing apparatus of the patented claims to be of an ink jet type and to include scanning of the print head.


Thus, independent Claims 11, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21-23 and 25 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the double patenting rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 11, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21-23 and 25. Dependent Claims 13, 16, 18, 20, 24 and 26-33 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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